

singing to the nurses in the intensive care unit and cracking jokes.

After retirement, he kept working shifts. When he wasn't working, he and Mila would travel, and that is how he contracted COVID-19, returning from an international trip just as the pandemic was worsening.

Dr. Rivera, like so many others who have died from COVID-19, leaves a big hole in his community. So we also offer our condolences and sympathies to Dr. Rivera's family.

#### REMEMBERING THEODORE "TED" WATTS

Finally, for the fifth Pennsylvanian whom I will talk about, we go back out to the northwestern end of the State—Northwestern Pennsylvania, Crawford County.

Theodore Watts was known as "Ted." Ted Watts, as he was known, is someone who was born in Pittsburgh, PA, but he spent most of his life in Meadville which, as I mentioned, is in Crawford County, just south of Erie, just to give people the geography.

Ted was a lawyer who first served his country in the JAG Corps of the U.S. Army. After separating from the Army, Ted married Shirley Barnett, and they settled in Meadville, PA, where Ted went into private practice.

Ted also served as the solicitor for the Penncrest School District and served as the Crawford County solicitor and the legal representative for the housing authority and the water authority of Meadville in Crawford County.

One of his most significant professional accomplishments came through his time as an attorney for the redevelopment authority, during which time he helped to set the stage for future "brownfields" legislation to safely reclaim contaminated industrial sites.

Ted is remembered by his family, friends, and colleagues for being community-oriented, a mentor, and someone who would "do anything," as someone said, for the people he cared most about.

He was an avid runner, finishing more than 40 marathons, and was the power behind the Thurston Classic, a large hot air balloon rally.

Ted loved the Pittsburgh Steelers, holding season tickets, and was both an athlete and a great coach for soccer and a referee for football.

Ted passed away from complications of COVID-19 in October of this year and leaves behind an extended family, as well as many people in Meadville and Crawford County whose lives he touched through his years of public service.

We, of course, offer our condolences and sympathies to Ted's family.

Let me say in conclusion that the Pennsylvanians whose stories I shared today are, of course, just a fraction—a fraction—of the now 12,890 deaths in our Commonwealth. Sadly, given the current rate at which the virus is spreading nationwide and in our State, the death toll will only rise higher in the coming weeks and months. On a

day like today—and, I hope, on so many other days—we pray for the grieving families who have loved and lost. They have lost someone they were very close to, someone they cared about, someone who brought joy to their lives, someone whom they will miss.

I am reminded again of the great song by Bruce Springsteen, "You're Missing." He wrote it after 9/11, and it has application, of course, to all kinds of circumstances where someone lost a loved one—lost a loved one in 9/11, lost a loved one in Iraq or Afghanistan or in so many other tragedies. In this case, I will use it to talk about what these families have lost because of this terrible virus and the COVID-19 pandemic. I won't recite, of course, all the lyrics, but Bruce Springsteen, in the song "You're Missing" has a refrain:

You're missing when I shut out the lights  
You're missing when I close my eyes  
You're missing when I see the sun rise

He goes on to sing the rest of the song about a person missing.

All of these families will miss their loved ones, not only when they are shutting off the lights and when they rise in the morning but every day and, in many cases, every hour of every day. So we pray for them.

And I think we have an obligation ourselves to these families. To honor those we have lost, we must all do our part.

What does that mean? It means following public health guidance regarding social distancing, wearing masks, and other steps we can all take, each of us, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to save as many lives as possible until the vaccines are widely available.

Let's do what we can. Of course, we should express condolences and sympathy. Of course, we should pray for an end to this terrible scourge. But we all have an obligation to do more to get those death numbers down.

But I wanted, in some small way, to recognize these Pennsylvanians, representative of all 12,890, which we pray will not grow very much from that number, just to say a word about the lives they lived and the families they left behind.

May God bless all of them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our vote begin now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON KIRSCH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kirsch nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 266 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kelly	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sinema
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young

#### NAYS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Loeffler	Rubio
Harris	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the